



Veteran Student Life
University of Maryland
0110 Stamp Student Union
College Park, MD 20742
www.veterans.umd.edu
(301) 314-0073
(301) 405-9605

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

The transition from military to college life can be a challenging endeavor. The following are some items to be mindful of when making this change: prepare for transition, be open to a new mindset, seek out other veterans and be interactive with your classmates, and practice patience.

For newly admitted or prospective student veterans, please read carefully the following pieces of information. They are designed to help you make a smooth transition into the university.

ACCEPTANCE OF ADMISSIONS OFFER

- If you choose to confirm your enrollment with the University of Maryland, please refer to your admissions decision letter for next steps and to the [Undergraduate Admissions page](#) for additional information on completing your enrollment. Please allow up to 48 business hours for your confirmation to be processed and posted to your record before you can register for Freshman or Transfer Orientation.
- Upon acceptance of your offer of admissions, you will be required to submit a deposit to confirm your enrollment. If you are using the GI Bill, the amount of the deposit will be credited to your account once payment from the VA is applied to your student account. Additionally, this deposit can be deferred if it poses a financial hardship. Contact Taylor Duvall in admissions at tduvall1@umd.edu for more information.
- **Admission to UMD does not necessarily mean admission to certain majors or colleges.** For example: There are Limited Enrollment Programs (LEPs), which have different and specific requirements to be met before admission. Often, transfers from other institutions do not qualify for certain LEPs because they are entering with too many credits or have to take certain required courses before being granted admission. You may find out more about LEPs by going [here](#). Students who are admitted to UMD but not their preferred LEP major are placed in [Letters & Sciences](#).
- To graduate from UMD, all students must complete approximately 40-46 credits of [General Education requirements](#). Each degree program or academic major requires at least 120 credits. Track your plan [here](#).

- Check out the Four-Year Plan website for more information on each college's degree requirements and to plan out your time here at Maryland. Each student is required to complete a [Four-Year Plan](#) to assist in the successful completion of a degree program.
- **HESI 310 - Transfer2Terp Learning Community: Applying Your Strengths at the University of Maryland and Beyond** is a course for students to identify their strengths and learn how to apply them both in and outside of the classroom. The course is worth 3 credits and can apply as a general elective requirement. Many of our past student veterans have found this course helpful with their transition onto campus. Students work side-by-side with the faculty, staff, and other transfer students in the Adele H. Stamp Student Union to learn about their strengths while applying them to leadership positions. This is a great opportunity to build a network of peers and mentors that will help support you throughout your time at the university. It will also plug you into the campus community so you can leverage your leadership experiences while you are here. You can search open sections of the course within [Testudo](#). *If you have questions, please email Kat Robinson at kat123@umd.edu.*

INFORMATION FOR TRANSFER CREDIT EVALUATION (if needed)

- For those student-veterans who need/request evaluation of college credits, please contact the [transfer credit center](#). Note, for those interested in seeing for themselves, there is a [database](#) for determining credit equivalent.
- If your course is not listed, email transfercredit@umd.edu with your name, UID (if you are a current student), name of the institution where the course was taken, the course ID and the course title at the transfer institution, along with a detailed course syllabus.

CREATE UNIVERSITY EMAIL ACCOUNT AND DIRECTORY ID

- Create your [Directory ID](#) and Set Up your University E-mail account. Once created, please set this account to forward to your most used email address.
- TERPmail is the university e-mail system which is operated through Gmail. Once you've setup your Directory ID and password, you can sign-up for [TERPmail](#). After your TERPmail account is activated, be sure to go to Testudo and update your preferred e-mail address.
- Check this account regularly because UMD faculty, departments and other students will be contacting you at this e-mail address before the beginning of the semester. If you need help setting up your account, visit the digital [IT service desk](#).

GETTING ACCESS TO VETERANS CENTER AND TERLINK

- The Veterans Center is located in Cole Field House, Room 1112 - this is your home away from home on campus. We have a computer lab with free printing, a kitchenette with free coffee, conference room, and study space for you to use while you are on campus. You will be able to access the center using your student ID card. Usual access

hours are 7:30 AM - 10:00 PM Monday through Friday and 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on weekends. To gain access to the lounge, please fill out the Vet Center access request form at this [link](#) (You must have a *TerpLink* account to access the form. Instructions for setting up your *TerpLink* account are listed below).

- *Terp Link* is an application that will help you stay informed of and sign up for upcoming events and opportunities across campus, including applying for the University of Maryland Veterans Scholarships. *TerpLink* is a gateway where students can find and get connected with student groups matching their interests. You will need your directory ID and password in order to [sign up](#) for *TerpLink* (The same login you use for *Testudo* or your *ELMS* account). Go to our office page for [VSL](#), then make sure to click the “Join” button. You can also join the Student Veteran Organization’s page [here](#).

REGISTER FOR FRESHMAN/TRANSFER ORIENTATION (NOT STUDENT VETERAN SPECIFIC)

- After you have set up your Directory ID, you are ready to register for Freshman/Transfer Orientation. The Orientation Office holds an orientation specifically for transfer students. All new students to the University of Maryland must complete an orientation regardless of if they completed one at their previous institution. Please read all of the following information before registering via the link at the bottom of this section.
- There is a program fee that covers all costs associated with the program including breakfast, lunch, staffing, materials and logistics. The charge is a per-person fee for all participants. Orientations at the University of Maryland include a program fee because the Orientation Office receives no funding from the university or the state. The fees associated with the program are charged directly to your student account. **If you are using the GI Bill, this fee will be refunded.**

Before You Register

- When registering, you should know any conflicts you have that will prohibit you from attending orientation. When you register online or call the orientation office (listed below), you will be informed of all available orientation dates.
- **These dates are based on space availability for college advising. Programs fill quickly, so be sure to register online or call as soon as possible for the greatest availability.**

When You Register

- You can register for orientation by calling 301-314-8217, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM or you can [register online](#).
- There are freshman and transfer orientations available in-person and online for out-of-state prospective students as of Fall 2022.

REGISTER FOR THE VETERAN & MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ON-CAMPUS ORIENTATION

- Join us for our **Veteran & Military-Connected New Student Orientation**. Most of the veteran-related information is not discussed during the Freshmen/Transfer Student Orientation, so we highly advise all student veterans and military-connected students to attend this orientation. To attend UMD Veteran Orientation or for more information, please contact vetstudentlife@umd.edu. **This is not a substitution for the required Freshman or Transfer Orientation.**
- The orientation will cover topics such as health insurance, veteran benefits, scholarships, academic support services, recreational activities, and professional development. Additionally, this is a great way to meet other incoming student veterans going through the same transition as you and current student veterans who just made this transition recently. Our orientation is planned and led by veterans, for veterans.

STANDARDIZED PLACEMENT TESTS

There are two placement tests at The University of Maryland: Math and Foreign Language test.

- The math placement exam can be taken online. We suggest students that must take the math placement exam study to brush up on key concepts to be placed into an accurate academic level course.
- Please review the criteria for the [math](#) or [foreign language](#) placement exams. All transfer students are encouraged to take the placement tests **before** coming to New Student Orientation so you can register for appropriate classes & make an accurate academic plan with your advisor.

UPLOAD YOUR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

- **Proof of current or previous active duty status (DD214) in the U.S. Military will be accepted by the Health Center and waives the necessity of having a physician signing off on your UMD vaccination record.**
 - o Go to Myuhc.umd.edu
 - o Click on "Forms" on left side
 - o Then, click link that says "Immunization Uploading" (See screenshot below)
 - o Upload your DD214

UMD University Health Center

- Home
- Profile
- Health History
- Appointments
- Referrals
- Handouts
- Messages
- Letters
- Forms**
- Insurance Card
- Survey Forms

If this is your first visit to the Health Center, the **PATIENT CONSENT, ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES** must be acknowledged before you can see your provider.

- *Immunization Uploading
- *Tuberculosis Risk Screening
- Consent for Telemedicine
- Gender Identity Related Questions
- Notice of Privacy Practices
- PATIENT CONSENT, ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Prior to opening these pages to complete your health requirements, gather your health history, and family history.

Click on the links below to access the forms.

Form Name
*Immunization Uploading
*Tuberculosis Risk Screening
Consent for Telemedicine

- A military immunizations form (**DD Form 2766C**) will also be accepted as proof of vaccination. If you need to get a copy of your DD 2766C, you can request it through the VA using form [VHA 10-5345a](#). If you submit your DD-214, you do not need to submit DD Form 2766C.
- **For questions**, please call (301) 314-8114 or **for appointments** call (301) 314-8184 or [request online](#).

FRESHMAN/TRANSFER ORIENTATION ATTENDANCE AND LOGISTICS

- Now that you have completed the previous steps you are ready to attend orientation. You should have already registered for your orientation date. If you haven't, visit <http://orientation.umd.edu/>. **During the orientation program you will meet and get to know your Orientation Advisor (OA), meet with an academic advisor to discuss your course schedule, and register for classes.**
- Prepare for Orientation- As you begin your preparation of attending orientation, remember that you are an active participant and the most important player in your educational success. Come ready to ask questions of our staff and students. Remember to do some research on your major requirements and keep a checklist of the things you still need to complete or offices you need to visit.
- The Freshman/Transfer orientation is separate from the Student Veteran's orientation. The Student Veteran's orientation will be held in-person with an option to participate online via live stream. To register for the Veteran's orientation, visit stamp.umd.edu/VetsOrientation.

IDENTIFICATION CARD

- The identification card for the University of Maryland, College Park can be obtained on the first floor of the Mitchell Building (Google maps can lead you there). The area in which IDs are obtained is directly to the left of the main door front entrance. Students can use the photo ID card for admission to most social, and cultural events, to borrow books from the library, board campus buses, and as a general form of identification on campus.

RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION

- The offices of undergraduate and graduate admissions determine your state residency classification for tuition purposes. The residency classification office is the entity that handles requests for change of residency status for in-state tuition purposes. **Honorably discharged veterans living in the State of Maryland regardless of length of residency qualify for in-state tuition.** Active-duty members stationed in Maryland (including those on terminal leave) or members of the Maryland Army National Guard, may also qualify for in-state status. Please keep in mind: there is not reciprocity for the in-state tuition rate for benefits to live in DC or Virginia. Veteran students wishing to utilize VA benefits must have a Maryland residential address to receive in-state tuition exemptions, or else you will be charged the full out-of-state rate and be responsible for the difference.

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- For those interested in initiating their VA educational benefits, please refer to our website for detailed information on the various educational chapters.
- If you will be using the Post 9/11 GI Bill (i.e., Chapter 33 benefits), you will need a certificate of eligibility. It may take some time to obtain (1-3 months). We strongly advise getting this ASAP - if you run into any problems please come talk with us. The form to request a certificate of eligibility can be completed online. You should complete this form if you are applying to use your GI Bill Benefits for the first time.
- If you have used your GI Bill in the past at a different institution and plan on using your benefits at UMD, you should submit a change of program/institution request to the VA (VA Form 22-1995)
- Once you are registered for classes, you can then submit your CoE and the UMD Enrollment Certification form to our School Certifying Officials office at vabenefits@umd.edu. They will be able to answer all your GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon questions.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS – typically open in April through May for the following academic year

- **If you are interested in applying for financial aid or scholarships your first step should be to complete the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA).** You can also learn more about financial aid at the UMD Financial Aid Office website. If your current financial situation has recently changed substantially and your financial aid package does not reflect your current situation, you can appeal your financial awards offer due to special circumstances through the financial aid office.

- Scholarships are available for the at-large student population through the [University of Maryland](#) and through the [State of Maryland](#) as well as [scholarships specifically for UMD student veterans](#). These competitive scholarships typically become available in April for funding to be utilized for the next Fall semester.
- Additionally, The Pat Tillman Foundation scholarship application typically opens during fall for the next academic school year. UMD is a partner school, so when applying make sure to select the “partner school” track. You can find more information here: pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-scholars-military-scholarships/

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING

- If you are looking for places to live, visit the [off-campus housing service](#). They can also be reached at 301-314-3645, or by email at och@umd.edu